

## PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT



TIJUANA RIVER ESTUARY, NEAR THE SAN YSIDRO BORDER.

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### BACKGROUND

Rapid growth in cities along the US - Mexico border has resulted in overuse of available water resources and put a strain on existing water and wastewater treatment plants in both countries. There has also been a significant increase in air pollution and solid waste. Both countries recognized the devastating and long reaching impact and effect such growth entails, and have agreed to cooperate in planning and implementing environmental infrastructure projects that will provide sustainable development within the Border region.

As part of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), two international institutions were created in an effort to ameliorate the existing and proposed environmental infrastructure along the United States-Mexico Border thereby providing a healthier environment.

The Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) was established to work with affected states and agencies to coordinate environmental infrastructure projects on both sides of the Border, certify these projects, and make them viable candidates for funding.

The North American Development Bank (NADB), the BECC's sister institution, was established to provide funding for environmental infrastructure projects within 100 km (approximately 62 miles) on either side of the United States-Mexico border. Created as interdependent institutions, the NADB and the BECC work as a team to promote and fund environmental infrastructure projects in the Border region.

In 1994, Governor Pete Wilson (California), Governor Ruffo Appel (Baja California) and Governor Mercado Romero (Baja California Sur) met in San Diego to hold the 48th General Assembly of the Commission of the Californias. At this meeting, the California Border Environmental Cooperation Committee (Cal/BECC) was created by the Governors and the General Assembly. The purpose of Cal/BECC is to identify and promote Border environmental infrastructure projects complementary to both states, establish Border priorities, and to solicit funding for those projects. Cal/BECC is currently chaired by Peter M. Rooney, Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency.

This report focuses on environmental infrastructure in-line with the three BECC priorities: a) waste water treatment, b) water delivery and c) municipal solid waste. Approximately 175 letters were sent to local, state and federal governmental agencies in San Diego and Imperial Counties requesting information on potential projects. Other organizations, water districts and communities were also included in the initial contact attempt. A copy of the letter, which was sent to potential project proponents is identified as Attachment A in the Appendix.

This report contains a summary of environmental infrastructure projects along both sides of the California-Baja California border within the 100 km belt. No attempt was made to prioritize the projects or to establish a rating criteria. All projects submitted by January 1998 are included. The report also includes a discussion of the BECC, NADBank, and their respective programs, Cal/BECC, Cal/EPA Boards and Departments and some programs from the USDA, USEPA and USAID.

#### DIFFERENCES FROM THE FIRST EDITION

The initial Environmental Needs Assessment Report published in April 1995 included a diversity of environmental projects. While these projects identified specific areas, needs and accomplishments along the California-Baja California border, many projects did not truly address environmental infrastructure projects and did not qualify for funding under the BECC and NADB priorities and guidelines. Future editions of this report will coincide with BECC and NADB priorities. A report entitled: "California - Baja California Border Environmental Activities" will address other non-infrastructure environmental needs, projects and accomplishments and will be published under separate cover in 1998.

The imminent needs in protecting public health and the environment along the Border are pollution prevention, adequate treatment of water supply and waste water and appropriate handling of solid waste. To that end, this and subsequent reports will focus on the three BECC priorities.

Additionally, this second edition includes information relevant to programs that the BECC, NADB, USDA and USEPA recently implemented or are in the process of implementing. The Appendix section contains forms for various programs, amongst these are the NADB Institutional Development Cooperation Program, BECC Step I form and the Global Technology Network. Many of the grants mentioned in this report are given on a first come first serve basis and most are available to the ten states that make up the U.S.-Mexico Border.

In this second edition, our neighboring state, Baja California agreed to participate by soliciting the same information from prospective project proponents located on their side of the border. The response in Baja California was very positive. A total of 29 projects were submitted by prospective project proponents totaling approximately \$150 million. A section in Spanish is included in this report on these projects.

It is anticipated that the next edition of this report will include environmental infrastructure projects from California, Baja California, and Baja California Sur. Although Baja California Sur does not qualify for North American Development Bank funds, it does comprise a portion of the three Californias corridor, a region with substantial activity in trade, commerce and similarities in its environment.

### PROPOSALS SUMMARY

A total of 25 agencies or firms responded to the request for proposals on Border environmental infrastructure projects.

As of January 1998 a total of 65 proposals had been received, some for multiple projects. Of these, a large portion involve construction of major environmental infrastructure. The total cost of projects in California-Baja California approximates \$1.4 billion dollars.

A summary of projects submitted in response to Cal/EPA and State of Baja California's request is included in Table 1. Projects certified by the BECC in California and Baja California are listed in Table 2.

**TABLE 1: PROJECTS PROPOSALS SUMMARY**

CATEGORY <sub>1</sub>	# SUBMITTED	COST <sub>2</sub>	POPULATION BENEFITED <sub>3</sub>	COUNTY <sub>4</sub>
WATER SUPPLY	19	764.1	1,489,266	San Diego, Ensenada, Imperial
WASTE WATER TREATMENT	40	670.5	2,417,995	San Diego, Imperial, Mexicali, Tijuana, Tecate, Ensenada, Rosarito,
SOLID WASTE	6	15.8	478,350	San Diego, Rosarito, Ensenada
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>\$1,450.5</b>		

**TABLE 2: BECC CERTIFIED PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA-BAJA CALIFORNIA**

CATEGORY <sub>1</sub>	# SUBMITTED	COST <sub>2</sub>	POPULATION BENEFITED <sub>3</sub>	COUNTY <sub>4</sub>
WATER SUPPLY	1	19.6	19,000	Imperial
WASTE WATER TREATMENT	4	129.6	1,804,091	Mexicali, Tijuana, San Diego,
SOLID WASTE	NONE			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$149.2</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Based on the Border Environment Cooperation Commission priority areas

<sup>2</sup> Approximate cost in millions of dollars

<sup>3</sup> Based on 1990 Census Information

<sup>4</sup> In Baja California Municipalities apply